

nation. Terrence Bell's report came out. It was titled "A Nation At Risk" and that was meant as a literal interpretation that the state of public education in the nation was such that our nation...our nation's future was genuinely at risk. Governor Kerrey, in response to that, appointed a task force. That task force looked at public education, looked at all the reforms taking place in other nations and recommended a package of reforms to this Legislature, and it dealt in general with public education. LB 994 was passed. In LB 994 we did a number of things. We set up various levels of teacher certification. We extended the time for the teacher...for the students would stay in classrooms. We increased the requirements for certification and we passed a number of other programs. There was a budget crunch that year, and as often happens in here the last few days of the session, priorities were set. Funding this package was not a part of that list of priorities that we ultimately came up with, and so what we did is we delayed the funding of those programs. We delayed it until July 1 of 1987. Now if that number rings a bell, it is because 1987 is coming up right away and we are expected to fund this program at that time. What the Education Committee has done, we originally had a bill introduced that would have merely delayed all of the programs indefinitely. What we did as a committee is we recommended to the body that we phase in those particular programs, and we amended the bill, passed it on over here to Select File, and the way we have it now is a phase in sort of program. What we have here now is another amendment that we have had further discussions with the people of the Department of Education, other interested parties, members of the Education Committee. We are recommending that the programs be phased in in the following manner, and you have on your desk now a memo dated May 5th, 1987. You received this in your boxes, you have another copy of it, that suggests how we do this. We are suggesting that in this year we choose the extended teacher contract. This program provides grants to school districts for programs which will begin next spring and summer. The grants will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of extending the contracts of exemplary teachers an additional time period for the purpose of enriching curriculum or providing individualized or remedial instruction to students. Up to 10 percent of the teachers of each school district could participate. We are suggesting in '87-88 we fund that program at the \$1 million level. In '88-89, we fund it at an additional \$2 million level. Then we are suggesting the implementation of the professional staff development program in '89-90. We fund in '90-91 the scientist-in-residence program, the exemplary curriculum